



The Beacon



By and for emergency responders

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S ROLE IN COUNTER-TERRORISM

Most people would not make the connection between a coordinated, national counter-terrorism program and the mission of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). But when you examine the subject a little more closely, the connection becomes quite clear. EPA has long-standing, mandated responsibilities for preparing for and responding to emergencies involving oil, hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants (which include chemicals, biological and radiological materials), that could also be components of a weapon of mass destruction (WMD). Given the increased attention on the threat of terrorism, EPA continues to work to build upon and enhance its existing hazardous substance and oil emergency response program to become better prepared to respond to a terrorist incident that may involve a WMD. EPA's emergency response program in essence must evolve in coordination with the state and local responders.

Background

For 30 years, EPA has been providing technical support, response coordination and management, and resource assistance to local and state first responders under the National Response System (NRS). The NRS is the Federal government's mechanism for emergency response to releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants and discharges of oil that threaten human health or the environment. The NRS is described in more detail in the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) at 40 CFR Part 300. Under the NRS, EPA On-Scene Coordinators (EPA OSCs) can call upon a variety of specialized equipment and highly trained personnel, including the Environmental Response Team, the Radiological Emergency Response Team, the U.S. Coast Guard Strike Teams and the National Enforcement Investigation Center, to assist local and state responders. These NRS response resources are explained in detail later in this article. EPA OSCs and the resources of the NRS can be accessed through the National Response Center (NRC), the 24-hour notification point for environmental emergencies which can be reached by phone at 800-424-8802. By design, the NRC also serves to provide first responders instant technical assistance from Department of Defense (DOD) WMD experts as well through a hotline to DOD.

Also, since 1986, under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), EPA has been helping state and local responders plan for emergencies caused by the release of extremely hazardous substances. EPA is currently working toward a goal of incorporating specific weapon of mass destruction provisions into at least 50 percent of all local emergency hazmat response plans by the year 2003.

New/Additional Mandates

In recognition of EPA's responsibilities, capabilities, and experience, Presidential Decision Directive (PDD) #39 assigned EPA the task of assisting the FBI in threat assessments and determining the type of hazards associated with releases or potential releases of materials in a terrorist incident. EPA was also assigned to assist FEMA with environmental monitoring, decontamination, and long-term site cleanup. (EPA is the lead agency for Hazardous Materials Response under Emergency Support Function (ESF) #10 of the Federal Response Plan.) Additionally, PDD #63 which addresses the protection of America's critical infrastructure, named EPA the lead agency for the Water Supply Sector and EPA has worked to eliminate significant vulnerabilities in our nation's water supply. Lastly, EPA was named in the Nunn-Lugar-Domenici legislation as one of the six federal agencies for assisting in the provision of WMD training program for first responders in 120 of the country's largest cities. The EPA drew upon its extensive hazardous materials training program experience to assist with the course development.

EPA Response Resources

On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs)

EPA has approximately 215 On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) located nationwide. The OSCs carry out EPA's response and preparedness efforts under the National Contingency Plans (NCP). The NCP describes in detail the roles and responsibilities of the OSC and the personnel of the other 15 federal agencies that participate in the NRS in support of the OSC. EPA OSCs work with state and local responders, and responsible parties to protect human health and the environment from releases/potential releases of hazardous substances and discharges of oil in the inland zone of our country. Similarly, the U.S. Coast Guard provides OSCs for the coastal zone. At the Regional-level, OSCs have access to response and technical assistance contractors and equipment to address mitigation, removal, treatment, decontamination, and disposal issues. If needed, the OSC has access to the additional National-level resources of the NRS. These particular resources may also be employed in response to a terrorist attack involving chemical, nuclear, or biological agents. EPA continues to work to get OSCs additional training and equipment to better prepare them for coordinating a response to a terrorist incident.

Environmental Response Team (ERT)

The ERT is a resource of the NRS consisting of EPA employees and support contractors who provide specialized technical assistance to EPA's OSCs. The ERT, located in Edison, N.J., and on-call 24-hours a day, can be activated by the OSC to provide technical expertise for complex emergency responses, including those involving or potentially involving weapons of mass destruction, especially chemical weapons such as VX nerve gas and sarin gas. ERT has Level-A entry capabilities and has expert air and dispersion modeling as well as sampling and analysis capabilities. ERT resources have been pre-deployed for Special Events having a high level of terrorism threats.

Radiological Emergency Response Team (RERT)

The RERT can provide technical support anywhere in the U.S. for an emergency response involving radioactive materials. The RERT can provide on-site environmental monitoring support and mobile radiological labs for analyzing samples in the field. The RERT possesses expertise in the following areas: radiation monitoring; radionuclide analysis; radiation health physics; and risk assessment. The three main areas of EPA radiological response are: monitoring and assessment; protective action guidance; and assistance in coordinating Federal response during cleanup. Requests for RERT support can be made 24 hours-a-day via the National Response Center. EPA also has two permanent state-of-the-art radiological laboratories, in Montgomery, AL, and in Las Vegas, NV. These labs assist the RERT by providing in-

depth analytical support needed in recommending measures to protect public health and the environment. In addition to providing monitoring and assessment support, as part of an overall federal emergency response, the RERT could also be the focal point for EPA when the Agency is called upon to lead a Federal response to a radiological emergency.

The National Strike Force of the USCG (NSF)

The NSF is a special team which includes three Strike Teams, the Public Information Assist Team (PIAT) and the National Strike Force Coordination Center (NSFCC). The NSF is available to assist OSCs in their preparedness and response duties. Specifically the three Strike Teams (Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific) provide trained personnel and specialized equipment for assistance in training and response and are particularly able in assisting with site safety, level A entry capabilities and other response technical assistance. Each EPA OSC has a specific team designated for contact. The PIAT is available to assist the OSC in demands for public information during a response. The NSFCC center can assist the OSC in accessing specialized equipment from both the public and private sectors and coordinating overall USCG support to the OSC.

The National Enforcement Investigations Center (NEIC)

EPA's NEIC is the technical support center for EPA enforcement and compliance assurance programs nationwide. The NEIC maintains multi-disciplinary teams of experts who perform inspections and technical evaluations of petrochemical and industrial facilities involved in the manufacture and handling of hazardous substances. The NEIC offers expertise in the following areas: environmental forensic evidence collection and sampling; environmental forensic analysis; information management/computer forensics; and enforcement related technical analysis.

In addition to its emergency response field capabilities, EPA has also developed a secure electronic **Counter-Terrorism Resource Center**, similar to a secure website, to provide EPA personnel involved with CT initiatives remote access to key documents and to improve program coordination and information management efforts between HQ's personnel and Regional Offices. To learn more about EPA's counter-terrorism efforts and other emergency planning and response activities, access the following home page: www.epa.gov/ceppo/ or call the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Hotline at 1-800-424-9346.

OJP's FY 1999 COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL AGENCY DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS EQUIPMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP), working closely with the National Domestic Preparedness Office (NDPO), is pleased to announce the distribution of the FY 1999 County and Municipal Agency Domestic Preparedness Equipment Support Program application kit during the week of August 9, 1999. This program provides direct funding to targeted jurisdictions for equipment purchases to enhance their capacity to respond to weapons of mass destruction and terrorist incidents involving the use of chemical or biological agents, radiological explosives, and incendiary devices. Authority to administer the grant program was delegated by the Attorney General to OJP. Funding is provided to the Nation's largest 157 metropolitan jurisdictions and includes both cities and counties as well as to the 50 States under a separate grant program. This action is authorized under Public Law 105-119; the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State; the Judiciary; and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1999.

The Office of Justice Programs will distribute FY 1999 funding to provide the maximum number of communities with a basic defensive capability to respond to domestic terrorism incidents. This program ensures that first responders are properly equipped and prepared to respond to incidents of domestic terrorism involving chemical and biological agents, as well as radiological and explosive devices. This program will provide grants to the 157

largest cities and localities, to procure personal protective, chemical, biological and radiological detection and communications equipment in accordance with the FY 1999 Authorized Equipment Purchase List. Grant applications under this program must reflect the jurisdictions prioritized equipment needs for fire services, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response units, and law enforcement agencies operating within the eligible jurisdictions.

Eligible applicants for this program are the chief executive officers (CEOs) in the nation's 157 largest metropolitan jurisdictions. However, if the county or municipal government is not responsible for the fire services, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response units, and/or law enforcement agencies in its jurisdiction, then the appropriate State or local agency that provides that service must be consulted in the development of the application. All eligible applicants are grouped into award categories by a population index based on 1992 census data under this grant program. In addition, OJP is targeting the 50 States through a separate grant program called the FY State Domestic Preparedness Equipment Support Program.

Working closely with the FBI, OJP is developing planning tools for the 50 states in order to assess need, risk and threat throughout all jurisdictions regardless of population. OJP is currently working with the FBI on the integration of an FBI threat assessment methodology into the on-going development of OJP's needs and risk assessment models designed to identify and prioritize needs within a given jurisdiction. The FBI Threat Assessment will test and develop methodologies for assessing the threat of terrorist employment of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) against cities and local areas. The assessment may be used to determine the training and equipment requirements of a jurisdiction. Planning guidance is scheduled to be disseminated to the states by mid-September.

The following is a list of the 157 jurisdictions to be funded under the FY 1999 County and Municipal Agency Domestic Preparedness Equipment Support Program .

GROUP A (up to \$300,000)

1-Los Angeles County, CA
2-New York City, NY
3-Cook County, IL
4-City of Los Angeles, CA
5-Harris County, TX
6-City of Chicago, IL
7-San Diego County, CA
8-Orange County, CA
9-Maricopa County, AZ
10-Wayne County, MI
11-Dade County, FL
12-Dallas County, TX
13-City of Houston, TX
14-King County, WA
15-Philadelphia City/County, PA
16-San Bernardino County, CA
17-Santa Clara County, CA
18-Cuyahoga County, OH
19-Middlesex County, MA
20-Alameda County, CA
21-Allegheny County, PA
22-Suffolk County, NY
23-Broward County, FL
24-Nassau County, NY
25-Riverside County, CA
26-Bexar County, TX
27-Tarrant County, TX
28-City of San Diego, CA
29-Oakland County, MI
30-Sacramento County, CA
31-Hennepin County, MN
32-City of Dallas, TX
33-City of Phoenix, AZ

GROUP B (up to \$200,000)

51-DuPage County, IL
52-Indianapolis/Marion County, IN
53-City of San Jose, CA
54-Montgomery County, MD
55-Essex County, NJ
56-Salt Lake County, UT
57-Prince George's County, MD
58-Macomb County, MI
59-San Francisco City/County, CA
60-City of Baltimore, MD
61-Monroe County, NY
62-Orange County, FL
63-Fresno County, CA
64-Baltimore County, MD
65-Jacksonville/Duval County, FL
66-Pima County, AZ
67-Montgomery County, PA
68-Ventura County, CA
69-Middlesex County, NJ
70-Essex County, MA
71-Jefferson County, KY
72-Fulton County, GA
73-San Mateo County, CA
74-Jefferson County, AL
75-City of Columbus, OH
76-Jackson County, MO
77-El Paso County, TX
78-Norfolk County, MA
79-Pierce County, WA
80-City of Milwaukee, WI
81-City of Memphis, TN
82-Travis County, TX
83-Oklahoma County, OK

GROUP C (up to \$100,000)

101-Nashville/Davidson County, TN
102-Kent County, MI
103-Bristol County, MA
104-Camden County, NJ
105-San Joaquin County, CA
106-City of Cleveland, OH
107-Snohomish County, WA
108-City of Austin, TX
109-Bernalillo County, NM
110-Union County, NJ
111-New Orleans/Orleans Parish, LA
112-Ramsey County, MN
113-Denver City/County, CO
114-Lake County, IN
115-Cobb County, GA
116-Onondaga County, NY
117-City of Portland, OR
118-Passaic County, NJ
119-City of Fort Worth, TX
120-Lucas County, OH
121-Wake County, NC
122-Jefferson Parish, LA
123-Jefferson County, CO
124-Oklahoma City, OK
125-Kansas City, MO
126-City of Long Beach, CA
127-City of Charlotte, NC
128-City of Tucson, AZ
129-City of Virginia Beach, VA
130-City of Albuquerque, NM
131-City of Atlanta, GA
132-City of St. Louis, MO
133-City of Sacramento, CA

34-City of Detroit, MI	84-Multnomah County, OR	134-City of Fresno, CA
35-St. Louis County, MO	85-Kern County, CA	135-City of Tulsa, OK
36-City of San Antonio, TX	86-Washington, DC	136-City of Oakland, CA
37-Franklin County, OH	87-Montgomery County, OH	137-City of Pittsburgh, PA
38-Erie County, NY	88-Monmouth County, NJ	138-City of Minneapolis, MN
39-Milwaukee County, WI	89-De Kalb County, GA	139-City of Miami, FL
40-Palm Beach County, FL	90-Bucks County, PA	140-City of Cincinnati, OH
41-Westchester County, NY	91-Boston/Suffolk County, MA	141-City of Omaha, NE
42-Hamilton County, OH	92-Hudson County, NJ	142-City of Toledo, OH
43-Pinellas County, FL	93-City of El Paso, TX	143-City of Buffalo, NY
44-Honolulu City/County, HI	94-Delaware County, PA	144-City of Wichita, KS
45-Hillsborough County, FL	95-Lake County, IL	145-City of Mesa, AZ
46-Fairfax County, VA	96-Worcester County, MA	146-City of Las Vegas, NV
47-Clark County, NV	97-Mecklenburg County, NC	147-City of Colorado Springs, CO
48-Shelby County, TN	98-Summit County, OH	148-City of Santa Ana, CA
49-Contra Costa County, CA	99-City of Seattle, WA	149-City of Tampa, FL
50-Bergen County, NJ	100-Tulsa County, OK	150-City of Anaheim, CA
		151-City of Newark, NJ
		152-City of Arlington, TX
		153-City of St. Paul, MN
		154-City of Louisville, KY
		155-City of Corpus Christi, TX
		156-City of Birmingham, AL
		157-City of Norfolk, VA

In the News . . .

COUNTERTERRORISM BUDGET SKYROCKETS

According to a recent report from the Monterrey Institute for International Studies, the U.S. could spend nearly \$10 billion on programs designed to prevent and deal with the aftermath of a terrorist attack. This total represents a 50 percent increase over the estimated \$6.7 billion spent on terrorism programs three years ago. More than one-third of the money will be spent by various agencies on physical security for government facilities and embassies.

BIO WARFARE GAMES

According to *Federal Computer Week*, a war game was recently conducted by the National Defense University and concluded that the U.S. should focus on advanced information technologies to help manage the chaos that would likely follow a biological weapons attack. According to the preliminary results of the game, the U.S. must focus research and development efforts on high-tech management tools. Among the findings were: early warning and detector systems; integrated public-health surveillance systems; interoperable communications systems; and advanced incident management tools.

CINCINNATI OFFICIALS TRAIN FOR TERRORIST ATTACK

The *Cincinnati Post* reported that over 200 city personnel recently participated in an FBI-sponsored training program in Blue Ash, Ohio. The scenario involved baseball fans at Cynergy Field in Cincinnati succumbing to an attack and falling to the floor convulsing and their eyes and noses leaking uncontrollably. Over the next few weeks, another 300 employees will also participate in the training class.

WHAT'S NEW AT THE NDPO

The compendium of Weapons of Mass Destruction Courses sponsored by the federal government has been updated and is now available at the **new web site address at <http://dp.sbcom.army.mil>**. You will find the Compendium to be more user-friendly as you now have the capability to browse through the selection as well as print it.



The Beacon is now online. You can download the current or past issues of *The Beacon* from the NDPO's Internet site on the FBI's Homepage at www.fbi.gov. When you get to the FBI Homepage, click on the "Programs and Organizational Initiatives" button on the side menu; then simply click on the NDPO hyperlink. *The Beacon* is under the "Newsletter" link.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

This month's featured website is the EmergencyNet at www.emergency.com. EmergencyNet provides a 24 hour news, information, analysis, and coverage of disasters and emergency events. The site also includes articles, resources, reports, factsheets, and databases on many terrorism and WMD matters.

Emergency Net includes links to information on police, fire, EMS, Rescue, and HAZMAT operations. The "Infectious Disease Page" includes CDC reports and concise data on biological agents.

Although EmergencyNet is a commercial site (there are several advertisement banners for their products), there are many free information resources at the disposal of the emergency response community.

Editor's note: The NDPO does not sponsor Websites that are featured in The Beacon. The Website review is strictly used to provide information that may be useful to emergency responders.

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